

APPLICANTS: CHOU, Tsung-Kuan Allen et al.
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 2-16 and 17-25 are pending in the application.

Claims 2-9, 11, 15, 16, 18-21, and 25 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying this allowable subject matter.

Claims 8 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that amended claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 depends directly from amended claim 9 and incorporates all the elements of this claim. Therefore Applicants respectfully assert that claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

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Election/Restrictions

In the Office Action the Examiner stated that claims 2, 12, and 22 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Amended claims 2 depends directly from independent claim 9. Since claim 9 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is likewise allowable.

Amended claims 12 and 22 depend directly from independent claims 11 and 21, respectively. Since claims 11 and 21 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 11 and 21 are likewise allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7, 11 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Dickens et al. (US 6,657,525).

Claims 1 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is now moot.

Amended claims 3 and 4 depend directly from amended claim 9 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Since claim 9 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 3 and 4 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3 and 4.

Amended claims 5, 6 and 7 depend directly from amended claim 8 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Since claim 8 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5, 6 and 7 are likewise allowable.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 7.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject of claim 9, as identified by the Examiner. Therefore, amended claim 11 should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 11.

Claims 13-16 depend directly from amended independent claim 11 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-16 are patentable, and thus allowable, at least for the reasons set forth above.

Amended claims 18-19 depend directly from amended independent claim 20 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Since claim 20 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, as discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 18-19 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 18-19.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dickens et al. Specifically, the Examiner contended that although Dickens et al. does not describe the claimed contact force between the first and second contacts, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adjust the contact force between the first and second electrical contacts since applicants have not disclosed that the claimed contact force solves any stated problem or is of any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with a smaller contact force. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Claim 20 has been amended, and is now presented in independent form including all the limitations of previous independent claim 17, which is now canceled. Independent claim 20, as amended, recites "wherein a contact force of at least 100 micro-Newtons is maintained between said first and second electrical contacts in response to an actuation voltage of less than

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40 Volts between said top and bottom structures". As stated by the Examiner, Dickens et al. does not describe this feature of amended claim 20.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the present application claims and describes switch configurations (Figs. 2A-3E, and/or 5A-8B) that are able to maintain a relatively high contact force, e.g., a contact force of at least 100 micro-Newtons, as required by claim 20, in response to a relatively low actuation voltage, e.g., an actuation voltage of less than 40 Volts, as required by claim 20. Applicants respectfully submit that it may be desired to operate the switch at relatively low voltages, low power consumption and/or large contact forces, which may result in an extend lifetime of the switch (paragraph [0025] of the present application). Applicants further submit that in contrast to the switches described in the present application, conventional switch designs are not able to achieve the desired relationship between the contact force and the actuation voltage, as recited in claim 20 (paragraph [0003] of the present application). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the contact force and actuation voltage as recited by claim 20. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 20 under 35 USC §103(a).

Claims 18 and 19 depend directly from independent claim 20 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the patentability of claims 18 and 19 follows directly from the patentability of independent claim 20.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Wheeler et al. (US 2003/0025580) in view of Dickens et al. Specifically, the Examiner contended that Wheeler et al. discloses a switch able to connect an antenna with a receiver.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject of claim 9, as identified by the Examiner. Therefore, amended claim 21 should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 21.

Claims 22-25 depend directly from independent claim 21 and incorporate all the elements of this claim. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22-25 are patentable, and thus allowable, at least for the reasons set forth above.

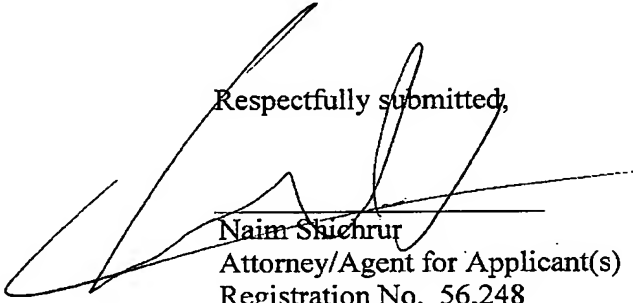
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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